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19 March 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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Indonesia: A growing campaign of Moslem agitation against the Communists is under way in Indonesia.

Principal scenes of this agitation are East Java and Atjeh, a province in northern Sumatra. Traditional orthodox Islamic belief is strong in both areas. The campaign apparently has included demonstrations, political murders, attacks on Communist property and facilities, a [number] of armed clashes, and an anti-Communist information program utilizing the press and the mosques.

probably overstating the extent and intensity of the disturbances. [Agitation has been sufficient, however, to arouse the concern of the Communists, who reportedly have appealed to both local and national authorities for action to curb the Moslems.]

The Moslem campaign has the sympathy and partial support of significant elements of the army and police, but its future largely depends on Sukarno's willingness to tolerate it.

Although he apparently has not yet interfered, Sukarno is dedicated to the preservation of national unity and is not likely to ignore the incidents for long. As a first step toward suppressing them, he might well ban Moslem youth and student associations. He might then hope that other Moslem groups would drop their anti-Communist agitation.

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NOTES

Congo: [Government forces which on 15 March began their drive to seal the northeast border have reoccupied Mahagi, five miles from the Ugandan border, and Mahagi Port on Lake Albert. The mercenary-led column has so far encountered only spotty resistance, although some of the rebels are armed with automatic weapons and recoilless rifles. Special precautions are being taken on the Congolese side to avoid incidents with Uganda, but already each side has charged the other with firing across the border.]

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Rumania: Party First Secretary Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej is suffering from a possibly fatal illness. Premier Maurer appears to have assumed some of Dej's responsibilities in recent days and is the leading candidate to replace him if he dies. No change in Rumania's independent policies would be likely under Maurer.

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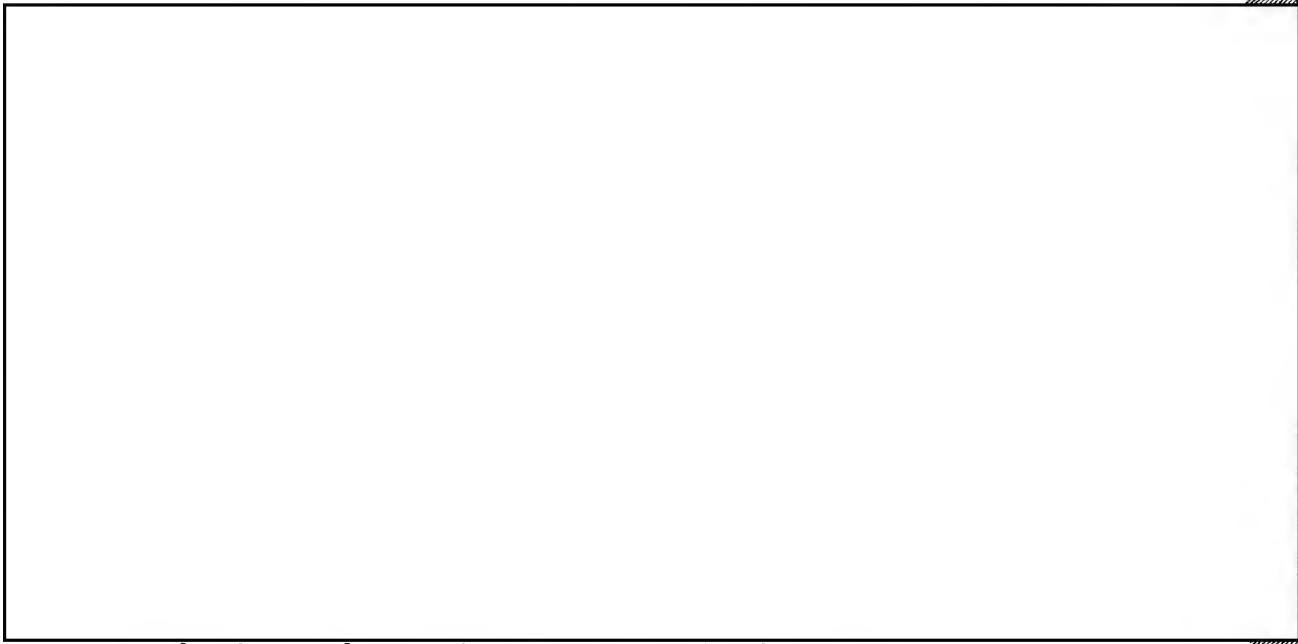
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Bahrain: Labor agitation against the American-owned Bahrain Petroleum Company appears to be taking on strong political overtones. Although the original demonstrations last week demanded merely the rehiring of laid-off local employees, the leaders of the agitation are now making broader demands, including the dismissal of British police officers and the release of political detainees. There are indications that Egyptian-backed Arab nationalist organizations, which recently seem to have been relatively quiescent in the Persian Gulf sheikdoms, are taking advantage of the situation to attack the British-protected regime.

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